

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed on September 9, 2004 in the above-referenced application, Applicant respectfully requests amendment of the above-identified application in the manner identified above and that the patent be granted in view of the arguments presented. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Present Status of Application

Claims 1-6 are now pending in the application. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 6-133832. Claims 2-5 are withdrawn.

New claim 6 readable on Species I is added by this amendment. Claims 1-5 are amended. The Summary and Abstract of the Disclosure are amended to correspond to the embodiment of the invention claimed in this application. Support for the amendments to the specification and claims can be found on page 8, line 25 to page 11, line 9, and Figs. 4A-4N.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the remarks contained below.

Election/Restriction

Applicant acknowledges the election of Species I, claim 1 directed to the subject matter described in Figs. 4A-F, G and H made on September 1, 2004 without traverse. Applicant further submits that claim 1 as amended in this paper is generic.

Objection to the Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to for failing to disclose at least the elected invention.

The abstract has been amended according to the suggestion of the Examiner. Applicant therefore submits that the objection to the specification is overcome.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 6-133832.

JP 6-133832 teaches an air bag 6 connected to an external flexible hose 14 via vent 12. Air bag 6 can be inflated/deflated by compressor 20 connected to the hose 14.

In this paper, claim 1 is amended to recite an air mattress, comprising a mattress pad, a back support to raise a part of the mattress pad, and an air pump assembly built into the mattress pad to inflate the mattress pad and the back support.

Applicant submits that JP 6-133832 fails to teach or suggest an air mattress comprising an air pump assembly fixed to the mattress pad to inflate the mattress pad and the back support as recited in claim 1. For at least this reason, it is Applicant's belief that claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference. Insofar as claims 6-7 depend from claim 1, it is Applicant's belief that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Withdrawn Claims 2-5

Appl. No. 10/696,794

Examiner: Hewitt, James M, Art Unit 3679

In response to the Office Action dated September 9, 2004

Date: January 10, 2005

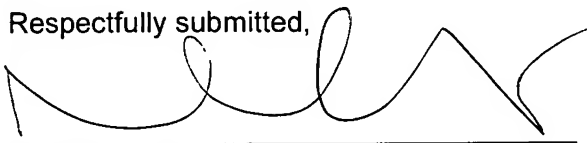
Attorney Docket No. 10111395

As amended, claim 1 is believed to be generic. Furthermore, as amended, withdrawn claims 2-5 depend from claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the additional species claims 2-5 as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.141.

Conclusion

The Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests so.

Respectfully submitted,



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